

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 IO-13
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7155
AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 6364

WARSAW FOR AMBASSADOR TOON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CSCE, SHUM, UR, US
SUBJECT: LIPAVSKIY REAPPEARS IN IZVESTIYA

REF: MOSCOW 6353

1. SUMMARY. THE LIPAVSKIY PRESS CONFERENCE AS CARRIED IN MAY 7 IZVESTIYA IS MOSTLY REPEAT OF CONTENTS OF HIS MARCH 4 OPEN LETTER. SOVIET JEWS AND HUMAN RIGHTS DISSIDENTS ARE TREATED EVEN WORSE THIS TIME AND ATTACKS ON FSOS LEVITSKY AND PRESEL SEEM EVEN MORE VIGOROUS. AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS FRIENDLY AND OSNOS ARE MENTIONED, THE LATTER GETTING QUITE POINTED TREATMENT. BY SOVIET STANDARDS THE ARTICLE IS UNUSUALLY WELL DONE, MIXING PERSONAL ATTACKS WITH DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF ALLEGED CIA INVOLVEMENT IN BEST SPY STORY FASHION. IN PRE-BELGRADE CONTEXT ARTICLE IS CLEARLY AIMED AT SMEARING JEWISH REFUSENIKS AND SOVIET DISSIDENTS AS CIA STOOGES WORKING WITH AND FOR CIA AGENTS POSING AS US EMBASSY OFFICERS AND NEWSMEN. IT HAS OMINOUS OVERTONES FOR THOSE DISSIDENTS MENTIONED, ALL BUT TWO OF WHOM ARE UNDER ARREST. END SUMMARY.

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2. MAY 7 IZVESTIYA CARRIES ON ITS BACK PAGE A LONG (5 COLUMN) INTERVIEW WITH ALLEGED FORMER CIA AGENT SANYA LIPAVSKIY. (TASS ENGLISH WIRE CARRIED AN ACCOUNT BASED ON THE INTERVIEW MAY 6). THE STORY ENTITLED "HOW THE CIA RECRUITED ME", IS MOSTLY A REHASH OF WHAT APPEARED IN THE OPEN LETTER CARRIED IN MARCH 4 IZVESTIYA AND IN THE ARTICLE WHICH ACCOMPANIED THAT LETTER. THE STORY IS BASED ON THE PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH

IZVESTIYA ORGANIZED (REFTEL). IZVESTIYA NOTES THAT WESTERN JOURNALISTS ATTENDED THE PRESS CONFERENCE AND NAMES GALLOWAY OF UPI, LATHE OF KOLNISCHER RUNDSCHAU AND ZANOTTI OF LA STAMPA.

3. THE ARTICLE TAKES THE FORM OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN WHICH QUOTATIONS FROM LIPAVSKIY'S ANSWERS ARE MIXED WITH STRAIGHT REPORTING. THE IZVESTIYA PIECE IS AN OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO USE WESTERN PRESS TECHNIQUES TO IMPRESS FOREIGN AS WELL AS DOMESTIC AUDIENCES WITH THE SERIOUSNESS OF LIPAVSKIY'S REVELATIONS AND THE OPENNESS WITH WHICH HE ANSWERS QUERIES. BY MIXING LIPAVSKIY'S ANSWERS (THE STORY DOES NOT GIVE THE FULL TEXT OF THE INTERVIEW) WITH LONG DESCRIPTIONS OF THE TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT THAT THE CIA ALLEGEDLY USED IN COMMUNICATING WITH LIPAVSKIY, THE ARTICLE IS A GOOD DEAL LESS HEAVY-HANDED AND IS BETTER WRITTEN THAN IS USUALLY THE CASE WITH SOVIET PROPAGANDA PIECES. IT IS LIKELY THAT A SOVIET READER WOULD FIND HIS INOCJDGT#SUSTAINED BY THE REVELATIONS OF ALLEGED CIA "TRADECRAFT".

4. CSCE GROUP: WHILE THERE IS LITTLE NEW IN LIPAVSKIY'S SECOND EFFORT TO "GO PUBLIC", WE NOTE THAT THE ARTICLE EMPHASIZES A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT THEMES. A DIRECT LINK IS MADE BETWEEN THE CIA AND THE "SO-CALLED FIGHTERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS". IN THIS CONNECTION, THE CSCE OBSERVATION GROUP, FOUNDED BY YURIY ORLOV, IS EXPLICITLY LINKED TO THE CIA, AND THE IMPLICATION IS MADE THAT THE GROUP'S ACTIVITIES ARE CARRIED OUT ON THE BASIS OF CIA INSTRUCTIONS. WE INTERPRET THIS AS AN ATTEMPT TO STORE UP SOME IDEOLOGICAL AMMUNITION FOR USE AT BELGRADE. IT ALSO, HOWEVER, MAY BE SEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ARREST OF ORLOV AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CSCE

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GROUP SINCE THIS WOULD BE USEFUL SHOULD THE CSCE GROUP MEMBERS EVENTUALLY BE PUT ON TRIAL.

5. JEWS: THE REFUSENIKS ALSO COME IN FOR VERY HARSH TREATMENT, ALTHOUGH THE WORD JEW IS NEVER MENTIONED. VITALIY RUBIN AND DAVID AZBEL, NOW BOTH IN THE WEST, ARE PRESENTED AS CIA AGENTS. THE OTHER REFUSENIKS MENTIONED ARE: LUNTS AND ALEKSEYEVA (NOW BOTH IN THE WEST), AS WELL AS SLEPAK, LERNER AND SHCHARANSKIY - ALL STILL HERE. SHCHARANSKIY IS CURRENTLY UNDER ARREST, AND IN WHAT MAY BE AN OMINOUS DEVELOPMENT FOR HIM, LIPAVSKIY SAYS THAT LERNER ASSIGNED SHCHARANSKIY THE TASK OF COLLECTING DEFENSE INFORMATION: "I TOLD LERNER DIRECTLY 'THIS IS A CRIME' BUT HE REMAINED SILENT AND REFUSED TO ANSWER. LATER I LEARNED THAT HE HAD INSTRUCTED SHCHARANSKIY AND OTHERS TO ORGANIZE THE RECEIPT OF SUCH INFORMATION AND SEND IT ABROAD." AS WE HAVE REPORTED, SHCHARANSKIY MAY BE TRIED ON TREASON CHARGES. IF THIS HAPPENS, LIPAVSKIY'S STATEMENT WOULD BE OBVIOUSLY USEFUL.

6. SLEPAK, WHO CONTACTED US SHORTLY AFTER IZVESTIYA HIT THE

STREETS, TOLD US THAT HE FELT THAT THE ARTICLE AUGURS
BADLY FOR HIM. HE FEARS THAT HE WILL BE ARRESTED SOON.
SLEPAK OBSERVED THAT HE AND LERNER ARE THE ONLY SOVIET CITIZENS
MENTIONED IN THE ARTICLE WHO ARE STILL AT LIBERTY. HE LINKED
RECENT KGB PRESSURE ON HIM H#

HOYE LIPAVSKIY PIECE.

7. A CONNECTION WITH AMERICAN JEWRY IS ALSO MADE IN THE ARTICLE.
LIPAVSKIY REPEATS THE CHARGE IN HIS OPEN LETTER OF VIOLENT
QUARRELS AMONG THE LEADING REFUSENIKS, NOTES THEIR SENDING LETTERS
ABROAD - SOMETIME TO HIGHLY PLACED PEOPLE IN THE US (WE WONDER
IF THIS MIGHT NOT REFER TO SLEPAK'S EXCHANGES OF TELEGRAMS WITH
CANDIDATE AND PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER.) TWO AMERICAN JEWISH
ACTIVISTS, SHMUKLER AND NOOM, ARE ALSO MENTIONED, IN CONNECTION
WITH TRIPS THAT EACH HAS MADE TO THE USSR. THIS MENTION OF
VISITING AMERICAN ACTIVISTS PRESUMABLY IS DESIGNED TO WARN SOVIET
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JEWS AGAINST HAVING CONTACTS WITH SUCH PEOPLE.

NOTE BY OC/T: SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 6364; #PARA. 3. AND 6. AS
RECEIVED. CORRECTIONS TO FOLLOW.

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
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O R 091035Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7155
AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MOSCOW 6364

WARSAW FOR AMBASSADOR TOON

CORRECTED COPY FOR GARBLED THROUGHOUT TEXT

8. JOURNALISTS: WHILE BOTH FRIENDLY AND OSNOS ARE NAMED, ONLY THE ALLEGED ACTIVITIES OF OSNOS ARE DESCRIBED. HE IS ACCUSED OF BEING A POST-BOX FOR SENDING AND RECEIVING LETTERS (USING AMERICAN EMBASSY POUCH.) ONE OF THOSE LETTERS WAS THE REQUEST FOR "DEFENSE INFORMATION" NOTED IN PARA THREE. FRIENDLY HAS, OF COURSE, ALREADY LEFT THE USSR - ALTHOUGH HIS PRESENT POSITION ON THE CSCE COMMISSION MAKES HIM A TARGET FOR FURTHER SOVIET ATTACK - AND OSNOS IS PREPARING TO LEAVE THE USSR SOON. WE SPECULATE THAT THAT MAY BE REASON THEY WERE CHOSEN. IN ANY CASE, THE REFERENCE TO OSNOS' ACTIVITIES CLEARLY MAKES THE POINT TO THE SOVIET READERSHIP THAT FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ARE ALSO TO BE AVOIDED SINCE THEY INCLUDE SPIES.

9. EMBOFFS: THE TREATMENT ACCORDED TO FSOS PRESEL AND LEVITSKY AND EX-FSO NATHANSON SEEMS TO US MORE PERSONALLY VICIOUS AND SPECIFIC, IN ATTEMPTING TO PROVIDE AN AIR OF PLAUSIBILITY, THAN THE LAST TIME LIPAVSKIY APPEARED IN PRINT. LEVITSKY IS CITED AS PERSONALLY GIVING INSTRUCTIONS TO LIPAVSKIY TO OBTAIN SECRET CONFIDENTIAL

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INFORMATION. HE IS ALSO PORTRAYED AS TRYING TO BLACKMAIL LIPAVSKIY. PRESEL IS SAID TO HAVE OPENLY MENTIONED HIS ALLEGED CIA AFFILIATION. FOR THE FIRST TIME, PRESEL IS ALSO ACCUSED SPECIFICALLY OF COLLECTING "INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEFENSE SECRETS OF OUR COUNTRY, OF SPECIFIC MILITARY AND MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL OBJECTIVES AND ON THE PEOPLE WORKING THERE."

PRESEL IS DESCRIBED AS BEING CONSTANTLY ACCOMPANIED BY HIS "ASSISTANT" AND FELLOW CIA AGENT NATHANSON WHO HELPED HIM REMEMBER DETAILS OF CONVERSATIONS (WHEN HE HAD DRUNK TOO MUCH). NATHANSON IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN A POST-BOX AND, AS WITH OSNOS, THE POINT IS MADE THAT SHE USED THE AMERICAN POUCH TO RECEIVE LETTERS FROM ABROAD FOR THE "STRUGGLERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS."

10. WE ASSUME THAT THE TIMING OF THE PIECE IS RELATED AT LEAST IN PART TO THE BELGRADE CSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE. WE ARE INTRIGUED, HOWEVER, BY THE CHOICE OF WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS INVITED TO ATTEND LIPAVSKIY'S INTERVIEW. WE ARE INCLINED TO ASSUME THAT UPI WAS INVITED RATHER THAN AP BECAUSE OF THE RECENT EXPULSION OF AP CORRESPONDENT KRIMSKY. THE UPI BUREAU CHIEF WAS PERHAPS INVITED RATHER THAN ANOTHER JOURNALIST FROM UPI SINCE HE HAS ONLY RECENTLY ARRIVED, AND DOES NOT YET HAVE GOOD RUSSIAN. WE ARE UNABLE SATISFACTORILY TO ACCOUNT FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE OTHER TWO CORRESPONDENTS, EXCEPT INsofar AS THE EDITORS OF IZVESTIYA FELT THAT THEY NEEDED AT LEAST THREE

WESTERN JOURNALISTS IN ORDER TO MAKE THE POINT IN THEIR PAPER THAT THE BRIEFING WAS OPEN TO THE WEST. NONE OF THE JOURNALISTS, THE IZVESTIYA EDITORS MAY HAVE ASSUMED, WAS LIKELY TO HAVE A DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF THE LIPAVSKIY "AFFAIR". IN THAT CASE NONE WOULD BE LIKELY TO POSE REALLY DIFFICULT QUESTIONS.

11. AS RELATED TO US BY THE UPI BUREAU CHIEF (REFTEL), THE INTERVIEW WITH LIPAVSKIY DIFFERED ON SEVERAL RESPECTS FROM THE WAY IN WHICH IT APPEARED IN IZVESTIYA. THE TASS ACCOUNT OFFERS STILL A DIFFERENT VERSION. IN PARTICULAR THE TASS MENTION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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SENATOR JACKSON AND CONGRESSMEN DRINAN AND FASCELL WAS OMITTED IN IZVESTIYA. NEITHER OF THE SOVIET MEDIA NOTED THAT THE IZVESTIYA SPOKESMAN WHO CONDUCTED THE CONFRONTATION MENTIONED THAT LIPAVSKIY HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF AN AMNESTY, AND THAT HE FACED NO CRIMINAL CHARGES. NOR DID THE SOVIET MEDIA PUBLISH THE OBSERVATION OF LIPAVSKIY THAT NATURALLY NOT ALL REFUSENIKS AND DISSIDENTS WERE CIA AGENTS.
MATLOCK

NOTE: SEC 2/2 MOSCOW 6364 CCY NOT REPROCESSED. NEED 1/2. 5/9, LRJ.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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